

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A composting apparatus comprising:
2 a housing;
3 a plurality of composting drawers in the housing, wherein the plurality of
4 composting drawers are in a stacked relationship when in the housing, and wherein each
5 drawer includes a bottom region having a plurality of apertures; and
6 a plurality of receiving structures in the housing, the receiving structures being
7 respectively disposed under the plurality of composting drawers to receive composted
8 material from the plurality of composting drawers.

1 2. The composting apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of
2 breaker devices, each of the breaker devices being adapted to agitate composted material at
3 the bottom region of a composting drawer within the plurality of drawers.

1 3. The composting apparatus of claim 1 where the plurality of drawers
2 includes a first set of drawers and a second set of drawers, wherein the first set of drawers
3 and the second set of drawers open in opposite directions.

1 4. The composting apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of
2 drawers includes a spacer element that spaces a rear wall of the drawer from a wall of the
3 housing.

1 5. The composting apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of
2 air vents in the housing, and a climate control system adapted to control the climate within
3 the housing.

1 6. The composting apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of
2 drawers includes a spacer element that spaces a rear wall of the drawer from a portion of the
3 housing and also extends in a downward direction so that when the drawer is pulled out, the
4 spacer element pulls a receiving structure underneath the drawer.

1 7. A composting system comprising:
2 a plurality of the composting apparatuses of claim 1, wherein the
3 composting apparatuses are stacked.

1 8. A method of using a composting apparatus comprising:
2 placing compostable material and composting organisms into each of a
3 plurality of drawers, wherein the drawers in the plurality of drawers are in a stacked
4 relationship;
5 composting the compostable material within the plurality of drawers to form
6 composted material within each of the plurality of drawers;
7 agitating the composted material in the plurality of drawers; and
8 passing the agitated composted material through the plurality of apertures at
9 the bottom region of each drawer within the plurality of drawers.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:
2 receiving the composted material in receiving structures under each of the
3 drawers; and
4 removing the composted material from the receiving structures under each of
5 the drawers.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein agitating the composted material in the
2 plurality of drawers comprises moving each of a plurality of breaker devices respectively
3 coupled to the drawers back and forth, wherein each breaker device includes a grid that is
4 disposed over a bottom region of the drawer in which the grid is present.

1 11. A composting apparatus comprising: <
2 a) a composting container adapted to contain a composted material, the
3 composting container having a plurality of side regions and a bottom region defining an inner
4 region for receiving compostable material and composting organisms, wherein the bottom
5 region has a plurality of apertures through which composted material can pass through; and
6 b) a breaker device comprising a grid above the bottom region of the
7 composting container, wherein the breaker device is adapted to agitate composted material at
8 the bottom region of the composting container so that the composted material passes through
9 the plurality of apertures in the bottom region of the composting container.

1 12. The composting apparatus of claim 11 wherein the breaker device
2 includes a handle capable of being gripped by a person and wherein the grid is coupled to the
3 handle.

1 13. The composting apparatus of claim 11 wherein the breaker device
2 includes a U-shaped handle capable of being gripped by a person and a grid that is coupled to
3 the handle via ends of the U-shaped handle, wherein the handle passes through apertures in at
4 least one of the side regions of the container.

1 14. The composting apparatus of claim 11 wherein the composting
2 container is a drawer in a plurality of drawers in the apparatus.

1 15. The composting apparatus of claim 11 further including a compostable
2 material disposed within the container.

1 16. The composting apparatus of claim 11 further comprising worms in the
2 container.

1 17. The composting apparatus of claim 11 wherein the container includes a
2 finger grip that allows a user to pull the container with the user's fingers.

1 18. The composting apparatus of claim 11 wherein the composting
2 container is made of rigid plastic.

1 19. A method of using a composting apparatus comprising:
2 placing a compostable material and composting organisms into a container,
3 the container having a plurality of side regions and a bottom region defining an inner region
4 for receiving the compostable material and the composting organisms, wherein the bottom
5 region has a plurality of apertures through which composted material can pass through;
6 composting the compostable material to form composted material;
7 manually agitating the composted material; and
8 passing the composted material through the plurality of apertures at the bottom
9 region of the container.

1 20. The method of claim 19 further comprising, after passing:
2 receiving the composted material on a receiving structure that is positioned
3 underneath the container.

1 21. A composting method comprising:
2 a) obtaining a transfer container and compostable material within the transfer
3 container;
4 b) tilting the transfer container;
5 c) vibrating the transfer container; and
6 d) dispensing the compostable material while vibrating the transfer container.

1 22. The method of claim 21 wherein d) comprises:
2 dispensing the compostable material in a drawer within a plurality of stacked
3 drawers in a composting apparatus.

1 23. The method of claim 21 wherein transfer container includes a passage
2 covered by a flap, wherein the dispensed compostable material passes through the passage.

1 24. The method of claim 21 further comprises, prior to a)
2 shredding organic waste to form the compostable material; and
3 loading the compostable material into the transferable container.

1 25. A composting system comprising:
2 a shipping container; and
3 a composting apparatus inside of the shipping container.

1 26. The composting system of claim 25 further comprising:
2 a shredder inside of the shipping container.

1 27. The composting system of claim 25 wherein the shipping container has
2 a length of from about 20 to about 40 feet long.

1 28. The composting system of claim 25 wherein the shipping container
2 comprises insulation and wherein the composting system further comprises:
3 a climate control system to control the climate inside of the shipping
4 container.

1 29. The composting system of claim 25 wherein the composting apparatus
2 includes a plurality of stacked drawers.

1 30. The composting system of claim 25 wherein the composting apparatus
2 is a vermicomposting apparatus.